

D.H.L.

A

LETTER

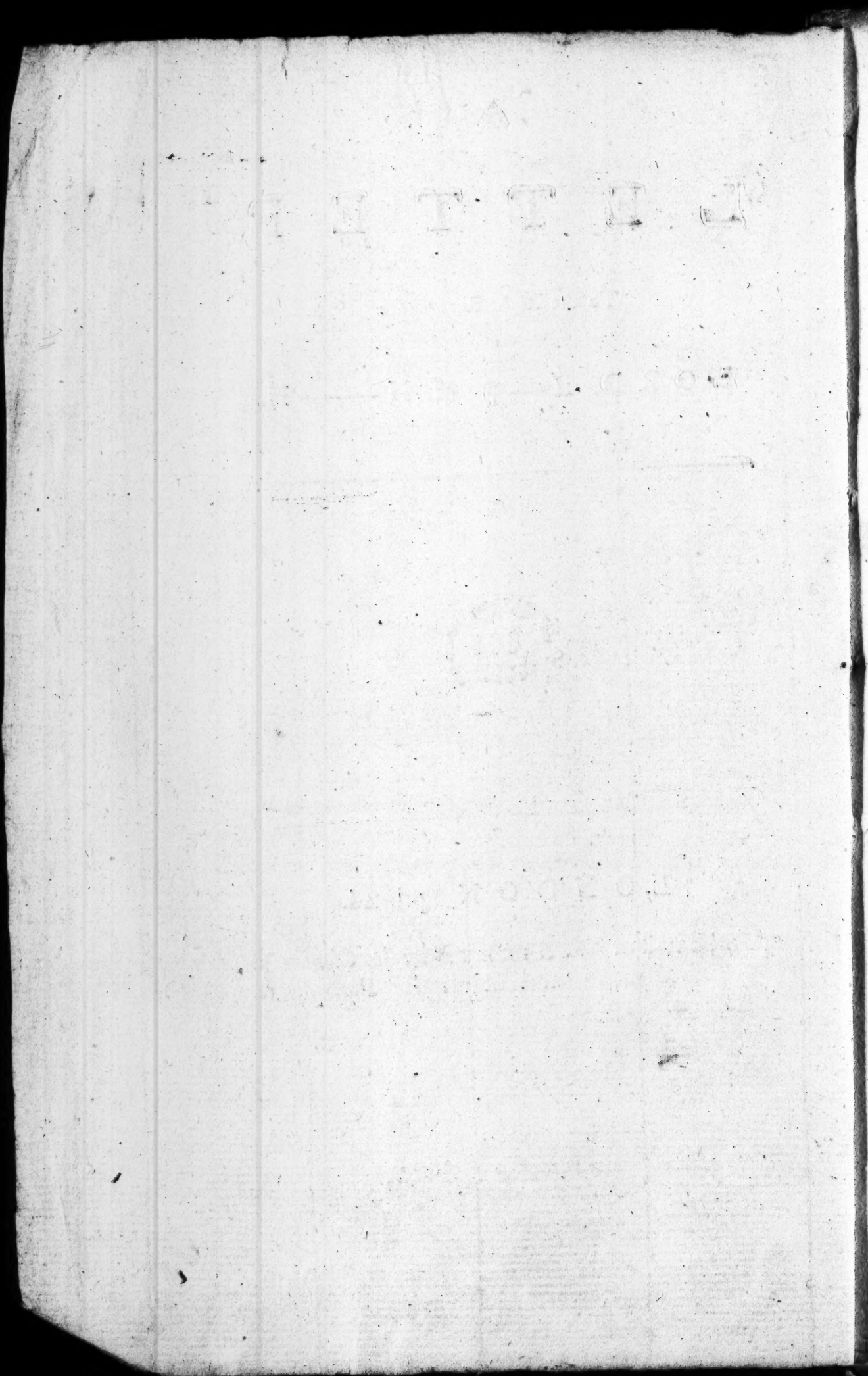
To the Right Reverend:

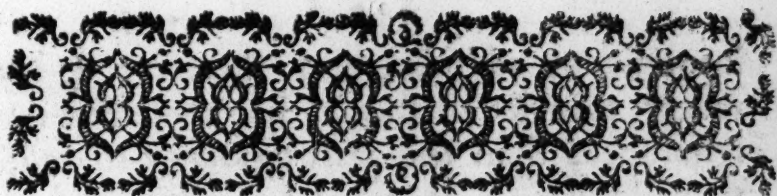
L O R D B — p of N — H:



L O N D O N printed:

To be had of W. B I Z E T, in *St. Clement's*
Church-yard; and at all the Pamphlet
shops: 1758:





LETTER, &c.

MY LORD,

THE great extent of the diocese of N——h, renders it almost impossible for your lordship to know the persons, or even the characters of the inferior clergy who are at any considerable distance from the capital; It is for this reason that I take the liberty to inform your lordship, that Mr. F. is by no means the worst man that has been permitted to preach the gospel within your lordship's diocese; and that there now resides a man who has the sole care of three parishes, viz. (a vickaridge, and two curacies) whose immoralities and vices! will point him out sufficiently to those who live within his neighbourhood, not to leave your lordship long without his name and abode, if this letter should excite your lordship's curiosity, or the matter should seem worthy farther attention.

Your lordship's great character ought to be a sufficient security to you against any

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impertinent address ; and therefore I had rather this letter should be construed into ignorance, than the least tendency to insult your lordship ; or, what I think as bad, to endeavour to impose on you by false representations. Notwithstanding what I have said above, I believe your lordship has heard something of the man whose portrait I beg leave to set before your lordship, and which I would not have done, but that I find he is so hardened in his vices, and so totally regardless of what he has lost ! that nothing but what affects his purse or preferment, can give him the least painful sensation. The gentleman I mean, is the person to whom a letter was about two years since addressed to from a captain ; and though the captain might not express himself altogether properly in that letter, yet I dare say your lordship will find the circumstances of the fraud strongly against the parson, and his total silence either in print or MS. (with the latter of which he is very liberal) are also strong circumstances that he thought *silence*, as to that charge, the most prudent ! nor could his most intimate acquaintance (without extorting it from him) prevail on him to speak on that head.

But instead of answering the letter, and endeavouring to acquit himself of the said fraud,

fraud, he drew up a charge against the supposed author of it, which he found means to get laid before his royal highness the duke of C——. The charge, as I am informed, consisted of upwards of thirty articles, some of which insinuated, that the captain's religion nor principles did intitle him to the trust reposed him; and his royal highness as in prudence ought, enquired into the matter, and indulged the captain with the request he made, which was, that as his highness had been at the trouble to read the charge brought against him, that he would also be pleased to hear what a faithful servant and subject had to say on his part in relation thereto; which his royal highness condescended to hear, and was pleased to say he was satisfied therewith; so that this wicked attempt to represent him as unfaithful to the king, whose bread he had eat more than half his life, and whose life was ever at his majesty's service, proved abortive. Thus much for his behaviour to the captain; and now, I shall beg leave to lay before your lordship his behaviour to the gentleman to whom he is curate; the example he has for these thirty years past set to those whose souls he has the care of, his attempt to blast the reputation of his nearest neighbour a clergyman, when he was a candidate for

preferment ; and lastly, conclude with some remarks on his life and conversation.

The gentleman to whom this worthy man is curate, lives at Ipswich, and as the curate rents the great tythes of the lay-rector, and the small ones from the vicar, so there was an account between the two latter to be settled, but they not agreeing, it was left to two arbitrators, and each chose his friend ; the whole account amounted to about three hundred pounds, and the arbitrators disallowed one hundred, to which this gentleman was not only obliged to submit, but thought prudent (as he did in the half guinea story) not to mention it ; but when it was unavoidable ! one of the clergymen arbitrators is now living at Ipswich, and the truth of this your lordship may know from his own mouth, nor cannot doubt from his known veracity, during the time the parish church was repairing it was notorious to the whole parish, and many of his parishoners saw him in the *night*, stealing out of the church-yard the timber belonging to the church, and take it into his own enclosure, which was near, to carry on his own private buildings. It is also notorious to the whole parish, that a poor man who had kept a large stone thirty years in his house, and directed his friends when he

was dying to see it placed at the head of his grave, with his name, age, &c. cut thereon, was also stolen about ten years since by this same worthy gentleman, and that during the seven years life of the son of the deceased, the curate used frequently to accost him in this manner. Well, Thomas, when do you intend to pay me the tithe due for the acre of ground behind your house? When you put my father's grave-stone where you stole it from, replied Thomas! And having about two years since been threatened with a prosecution for this sacrilegious theft (and not being able to find one man in his parish who would do it for him) was, as I am informed, obliged to carry the said grave-stone himself to the daughter of the deceased; but thus much I am sure is true, that it was carried by his order, or himself, and set down at the door of the deceased in the tenth year of its *captivity*, and that all his parishoners flocked about the house to see it. Nor do these two or three frauds above recited, stand singly against him! no, my lord, there are charges of the like kind innumerable in the mouths of many, nay, most of his parishoners, though some have died with the injured, in the course of thirty years that this gentleman has preached and practised, to three adjacent parishes.

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In a conversation I had with one of his parishoners, and one of the most sensible amongst them, he assured me, that tho' he had lived many years in that neighbourhood, he did not know above one or two men in whom he could confide, nor that he had not heard (and had reason to believe was true) some base or fraudulent action of, and this he attributed to the example of their pastor ?

I shall now beg leave to lay before your lordship his behaviour to his neighbour, a clergyman, who succeeded him to the employment he had forfeited by his fraud and folly, to embellish which, I must beg leave to go back, and observe to your lordship, that a little, before the charge against the captain was laid before H. R. H. the duke, the following paragraph or words to the following effect, were inserted by *somebody*, in the London news papers.

‘ We hear the chaplain of a certain garrison is turned out, a popish priest admitted in his stead, and that the greatest part of the said garrison are become papists.’

The baseness of which can be shewn by a certificate signed by every inhabitant civil and military, residing in the said garrison, and may be confirmed by their oath was it necessary. For though no man can command any body of men, but some must dislike him, yet every man in this case was
eager

eager to shew his detestation to so false and wicked an insinuation.

And as his successor was well assured no priest but himself, of any denomination had been admitted, he thought himself a party-sufferer on such a report ; and not knowing the consequence was willing to guard against the worst, and therefore did (what he would not have done otherwise) apply to this gentlemen to sign a testimonial in his favour, which was directed to the minister and church wardens of some parish in the north of England, and this certificate which vouched for his innocent life, and orthodoxy ! he gladly signed, believing that his late former employment would become vacant, and that he should by soothing flattery, or bullying insolence (both which he has tried dy turns) regain his lost appendage.—But it so happened, that the testimonial was used to another purpose : And finding himself thus properly out-witted, he left no stone unturned (*except those in the churchyard*) to endeavour to injure and undoe his neighbour, for whose good behaviour he had so lately vouched, and as he declares concientiously, but how much this gentleman's life and conversation was altered, in a few months after, let his own words declare, and which letter is to be produced if called for, or doubted.

‘ Sir,

‘ Sir, The worthy honest orthodox clergy-
 ‘ man, whom you preferred for his own *un-*
 ‘ *exceptionable merit*, which has hitherto been
 ‘ invisible to every eye but your own, with-
 ‘ out any one friend to recommend him,
 ‘ this learned gentleman so worthy of your
 ‘ favour and esteem, tho’ of no man’s be-
 ‘ sides yourself, envying me the little ad-
 ‘ vantage I reaped from L--d G--d F--t, in
 ‘ order to supplant me there, took the fol-
 ‘ lowing method : First, he made it his
 ‘ business to get acquainted with Mr. —
 and finding that it was his foible now and
 then to *coag it*, to bung an eye, and to take
 a moderate refreshment he plied him that
 way pretty briskly, till he had wholly gained
 him over to his interest, and so an inviolable
 friendship was soon signed, sealed, and
 cemented betwixt ’em by several *buggs* and
kisses the modern way in *Suffolk of fine gentle-*
men expressing their affection for one another.

The above is an extract of a letter contain-
 ing four sheets full of such sort of low abuse,
 and wicked insinuations, which is too long
 to recite, and too obscene to insert here, and
 having lately heard that this gentleman (who
 lost his curacy by the residence of the rector)
 was soliciting a piece of preferment with
 great prospect of success, he took occasion to
 write the following letter to a gentleman, by
 whose

whose means he thought his success might be frustrated; but his having a testimonial signed by the neighbouring clergy of character, and many friends appearing on his behalf, he did notwithstanding succeed.

REVEREND SIR,

A Misunderstanding subsisting betwixt me and Mr. B—, by whom I think I have been very ill used, is the reason why I was not so explicit in his character as might have been expected.—Our difference arose from the unjustifiable methods he used to procure me to sign the certificate he has produced.

Lieutenant governor T—, a man of a proud, fiery, revengeful spirit, without religion, virtue, or principle, having treated me very unhandsonely and with the utmost imaginable disgrace, carried matters so far, that he wrote and went in person, to complain of me to the bishop of New— how I said he was a papist, and that the garrison was not safe in his hands (all which upon my word was false, as his lordship soon perceived). However, he made such a noise about it, that it came to the ears of the duke of Cumberland, who thereupon sent a coll. of

C

guards

guards down to me, to enquire into the affair, whereat I was greatly surpris'd, not knowing any thing of the matter : And tho' I cleared the governor as to my own knowledge, of being inclined to favour popery, yet the duke sent for him up to examine further into the affair. And in the mean time Mr. B—— comes and intreats me to sign a certificate for him, for his friends had procured him the promise of an endowed curacy in the north, where he was born, worth 80 l. a year, and a certificate, he said was required for that purpose. On his request I signed it, tho' I was apprehensive at the same time, that the curacy was not worth near so much ; but thought no more of it, till one day going to the Fort I found the following advertisement posted up in a room belonging to the sutling office in the governor's own hand writing, with this short preface to it.—' The underwritten paragraph was taken from the London news papers, who put it in there, or how true it is. the reader must judge. ' We hear that the chaplain of a certain garrison was refused admittance therein, but a romish priest admitted in his stead, and the greatest part of the garrison are become papishes.'

Now,

Now, governor T—— having sometime before procured my dismissal from L---G-- F--t, where for several years I had officiated as deputy chaplain, and an order for Mr: B—— to succeed me, I began to consider with what design Mr. B—— had requested me to sign his certificate, and what use he had made of it. How Mr. T—— must have put that paragraph abovementioned, into the London papers, in order to throw the odium of the charge against him upon me as a calumniator.—And then in order to his justification he was to produce Mr. B——'s certificate (whom he had introduced into the garrison in my room, and whom I had taxed as being a papist, as he there insinuates) to prove under my own hand, that I believe him to be true to the church of England and the present government.—So that betwixt 'em both. I will leave you to judge, what a light I must appear in to his Royal Highness.

That this was the sole design in procuring me to sign Mr. B——'s certificate.---To justify the governor before the duke, and to throw the whole odium of the report upon me.--This I charged the governor with, and he could not deny it;—then next I remonstrated to Mr. B——, how he could come with a two fold lye to impose upon me,—and

be so ungenerous as to request me to sign a certificate, to cut my own throat, and make me appear a scoundrel to all the world, as being conscious to myself, I never did---nor could say any such thing, as he was a papist. I say, he imposed upon me with a twofold lye (and such a base imposition I must and shall ever resent)--for neither he nor his friends ever thought of his going down to the north,--nor is the curacy worth much above half of what he told me, as I am assured from the present curate, to whom I wrote to know the truth, being resolved to trace the affair to the bottom.

Now Mr. B--- instead of acknowledging his fault, in imposing upon me as a cheat and a liar, (which every ingenious man would do, rather than be exposed as a liar) justifies himself in what he did ;--- as glorying in that he had outwitted me ;--- whereas I was ignorant of their whole design, till all was over ;--- nor should ever have mistrusted them, if I had not accidentally met with the abovementioned paragraph in the London papers.--- And, Sir, since he behaved by me in such a manner, I have forbid him my house, and my Company for the future, and I think deservedly.--- For which, when I meet him, I am generally accosted with such rude behaviour and language

guage as I am ashamed to mention, because it is so unbecoming a gentleman, and a clergyman.

Now if what I have here alledg'd of the governor's and Mr. B——'s behaviour towards me be true, I hope I am sufficiently excuseable in not signing a certificate for the latter, no more than I should for the former, if requested.---And that this and ten times more such like proceedings of theirs against me, is true,---I can prove under their own hands,--by living witnesses, and authentic testimony from several others.---Thus Mr. B—— has behaved towards me in respect to the testimonies all now produced, which will make me cautious how I sign a second. And how he has behaved among his parishoners, Mr. B——p of Ipswich, to whom he is curate, is the most proper person to certify for him.---I should not have troubled you with this large and tedious account, but to clear up what I hinted at in my former, and to take off all suspicion of something worse relating to his character.---And I do assure you that I heartily join with all his parishoners in wishing him success, and for the same reason that they do.

I am,

The

The above letter is faithfully copied in every respect; and it should be impertinent in me to attempt pointing out to your lordship, or even to an illiterate reader, his ignorance as a scholar, his prevaricating story, and the wicked insinuation hinted at, *to prevent a suspicion of something worse in the gentleman's character*, which he has so strongly and injuriously pointed at in the extract of a former letter inserted above.

I am thoroughly persuaded, that he cannot produce three men (one out of each parish) of character and substance that would sign him the following certificate.

WE whose names are underwritten, do hereby declare, that we believe our present curate or vicar to be an honest man and a good christian; and that his example and dealings are worthy the imitation of all good men. And we farther declare, that we believe that the many charges against our said curate of various kinds, have been propagated by wicked people without cause, as we never did from our own dealings with him find him otherwise than a fair well-meaning man.

I call upon him, my lord, to produce a certificate so signed and send your lordship;
for

for I am persuaded unless he makes some *tythe terms to the farmer's advantage*, he cannot obtain such a testimonial ; and therefore he ought to get one so signed by the neighbouring farmers of the next parish, who know his character as well as his own, and I know will not so belye their consciences.

Nor do I think he can procure such a certificate from any of the neighbouring clergy ; I am sure he cannot from those who have known his life and conversation, as it is notorious in the neighbourhood, that he was toad-eater in his youthful days, to a magistrate, whose character was that of a *proud fiery revengeful temper, without religion, virtue or principle*, a man abandoned to all kinds of sensuality, and whose common table-talk (*where this gentleman sat for many years*) was what no decent clergyman would have prostituted his ears to, much less pledged his indecent toasts, as was notorious he did.

I have been informed that it is the general sense of the country (both clergy and laity) that the half guinea fraud stands clearly against him, and is almost confirmed by himself, in not making a reply ; but I have also heard that the person whom he defrauded of this piece of money has been charged with a persecution too cruel in return for so
small

small an injury ; and therefore as I am well acquainted with every circumstance of this matter, I beg leave to say a little on that head. After he was dismissed his military attendance, he wrote a libel, printed it, and sent one by the post to the captain's wife, a libel calculated to disturb the captain's domestick happiness ; he then went to the adjacent towns accompanied by his cousin a clergyman also, and they both were seen to throw them into the shops as they passed the streets. This proceeding occasioned the captain's letter to be published ; and that, occasioned his charges of popery on the captain, of poisoning his stock, *in a farm he held*, of madness, cruelty, and every kind of immorality. After matters were gone thus far, the captain hearing he was ill and low-spirited, and not then knowing his insensibility, wrote him a letter to the following effect, That hearing he was ill, and foreseeing that this quarrel might occasion much trouble and vexation on both sides, and believing in the end the neighbours would compare them to the two Welshmen who eat the cow t--d between them, he thought it best to let the ball drop, that no man was sooner angered than he was, yet no one was sooner appeased ; that he desired he would not suppose this
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Overture of peace proceeded from any fear, for that he must inform him, that of all men he had conversed with on the subject, he had found but one heart that felt for him, and that was his own; however if he did not approve of this his offer, he, the captain, was very willing to keep the ball up as long as he pleased; but begged leave to observe that the quarrel was very unequal, that what he, the parson, had in superiority of sense and letters, the soldier out-ballanced by his profession, and that he could not be hurt in so sensible a manner for any quarrel whatever, for conscious of his faithful duty to his king, he little dreamt of being charged with that crime which alone could affect him materially. In return to this letter, the captain received an answer full of much abuse, which concluded thus. I use his own words very near, but the sense I am sure is the same (but have not the letter before me) though that can be produced.

‘ Pray keep your tender compassion for
 ‘ your pimps and informers; I have read
 ‘ some where that the tender mercies of the
 ‘ wicked are cruel, I tell you plainly I will
 ‘ never forsake you; and I advise you when
 ‘ you go to I——h or W———e to take
 ‘ a file of men with you lest you get hear-
 ‘ tily drubbed or come short home.’

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The danger the captain apprehended himself under in going to Ipswich, was a drubbing from the gentleman himself, and that from his journey to Woodbridge from a farmer (for this he hinted in the letter) who married his *niece*, part of whose history it may not be improper to insert here. This young lady (for her uncle being a bachelor) was sent for out of Yorkshire to keep his house; and after some time in that employment became big with child, was then sent some hundred miles to ly-in, and when that was over, returned to her uncle again, who, like a good christian, forgave, and received her with open arms, and is to this day very fond of the child, who lives with him as *his own*! Not long after this a second misfortune (as I am well informed) happened to the young lady; but perhaps her absence was not on the same account, as we never could hear any thing of the residence of the second child that was insinuated to be born; however the lady returned, and was soon after happily married to the Woodbridge farmer, who is now a terror to the captain when he has occasion to go that road. But I must do the clergyman the justice to say, that notwithstanding his niece's faults, she, her husband, and children, are often entertained at her uncle's house, and share with him

him annually a great part of the profits that arise from the tythes he rents, and the preferment he has.

The above account I have thought the more necessary to lay before your lordship as it must affect his character as a good or a bad man; and had I occasion to think the rest of his life corresponded with it, I should think his behaviour on this occasion (though very unlike the common practice) very commendable. But, my lord, he has not been so happy in the opinion of his parishioners, and their opinion of their pastor always does, and has in his parishes particularly, had a very great influence, on their own lives and conversation, for if his example has not set virtue and religion in the light it ought, before their eyes, I may venture to affirm that his reading and preaching never did nor can, because I am certain that the most sensible man, cannot understand the plainest sermon from his preaching it. And however like prejudice this may appear to your lordship, I beg you'll suspend your judgment, till you have enquired of such who have heard him, for it is what no man can conceive of any other, nor what no man would believe of him from conversing with him, in which he appears a pleasant, and rather an agreeable man, whose person and address out of the

church is very well; and though after what I have said above, it is no great matter what prayers he omits, and what words he puts in improperly to those he reads, yet it may not be improper to acquaint your lordship that he often omits that very important prayer to be used in time of war, and some others, but adds a word or two of his own, to show his abundant piety! which he ought not: one of which is introduced thus in the following prayer. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, &c. and the *comfortable* fellowship of the Holy Ghost.

The above must arise from great arrogance, great piety, or great affectation; and if every clergyman, according to caprice or whim, was permitted to introduce arbitrary words in this manner, who could tell where it will end, and how far the favourers of *even popery*, might attempt to squeeze into the form of prayer such words as they liked, and leave out such words as they disliked, to serve their own purposes, if such proceedings are not put a stop to.

Though he denies having charged the half guinea captain with favouring of popery, yet he does whenever he meets the captain,--not only himself (but makes a clergyman cousin who lives with him) come three or four times a day opposite the house of the captain, and in the face of him, and his whole

whole family, stand crossing their breasts in the manner the Roman Catholicks do; and I must leave this behaviour to your lordship to determine how far it is decent and becoming a protestant clergyman, so wantonly make use of that ceremony, that is still preserved and used with the utmost solemnity in the protestant baptismal sacrament.

I must beg leave to conclude with the following observations.

If a charge of fraud from the circumstances, stand strong against a man who will not endeavour to acquit himself of it in the same publick manner, the charge is made, does it not leave room to suppose he cannot contradict it with sufficient force?

And could, or would, such a charge gain universal credit as this does, if the life and former actions of the man did not conspire to confirm such a belief?

If it be notorious that he attempted to defraud his rector of One hundred pounds in an account of three? can there be any doubt but he would if he could cheat a captain of so trifling a sum as ten shillings and sixpence?

If it be notorious to his whole parish that he stole the church timber to build his own house with? by moon-light, and the grave-stones to make the steps, can any one doubt that

that he would have cheated the rector, and that he did cheat the captain?

If it be notorious (and it is to his whole parish) that he prevailed on his Cousin to arrest a neighbour, then conducted him (*out of friendship as he professed*) to goal, but immediately applied to the landlord to take the prisoner's farm; and after the poor man was confined, he demanded tythe for turnips, which he declared the prisoner owed him for; and yet when he was released, produced his receipt for six pound fifteen, for the very tythe he demanded; can it be supposed that he can shew much compassion to the neighbouring poor, or that they do not feel the weight of his oppressing hand?

If it be notorious that a poor man, who had been many months sick, and had a family, and whose little garden, of about a quarter of an acre of ground, had been sown with wheat, that he and his cousin went in person and took the tythe of this poor man's corn away under their arms, and which did not amount to more than two leasers bundles, can there be any doubt that the former supposition wants farther confirmation?

And if these, and fifty more such charges, are true, and they can be proved if necessary, is this a proper person to preach the gospel to
three

three extensive parishes; or ought he not, with his chum, the reverend Mr. F. to be sent to weed tobacco in Virginia.

I beg leave to make this one observation more to your lordship; that ^{this} a worthy divine has endeavoured to blast the reputation of his antagonist, the captain, as he knows he has been at the pains to enquire strictly into his conduct and character, and as the bulk of the world are more ready to give scandal a kind reception, than praise, so he has hoped to depreciate the veracity of the captain, lest this great weight of matter he has against him, should crush him lower, if possible, than he is, in the estimation of all his neighbours and brethren, and though the captain is very sensible he has suffered himself, in the opinion of that neighbourhood, from the tongue of this man, whose good word could have been of no service, I am persuaded he does not on the whole feel any concern, but is rather glad, that such a difference arose, because he is well satisfied that the attention he has given for some years, and may for many more, to this gentleman's life and actions, has deterred him from many oppressions, that he would otherwise have exerted, on his poorest parishoners; and that the hungry have had many meals that would have been much shorter, had he been without

out so watchful a neighbour : and as the captain has lately seen that a parson of the same country, supported by a layman of fortune, and former good character, has had it in his power to use the most base fraud and wicked prevarication, to disturb the peace and happiness of the bishop of W——, whose life has been an ornament to his profession, and an honour to human nature, the captain, who has no virtue to boast on, but a love to truth, has not the least room to repine, or think himself ill used, nor would he publish this if he thought it could give any offence to your lordship, for whom he has the utmost respect ; but that offence that every good man, with your lordship, must feel on reading the above sketch of the life of a clergyman now doing duty in your lordship's diocese. For if the gentleman here spoken of can make it appear that these charges are not facts, he will, on security given that no law advantage shall be taken, declare his name, and also place it at the bottom of such a recantation as he, if injured, shall draw up.

And therefore I do hereby call upon him, and it is incumbent on him for his own sake, to answer to the charges above, or by his silence, to be as I should think he must, thought guilty. And I hereby promise that
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it shall be attended with no expence to him; for if he will send it to the author of this letter, and he knows how and where, in MS. that I will print it truly and faithfully at my own expence, and distribute them about the country as the captain did a former letter.

To the trouble of this he can plead no excuse, as he is fond of writing, and has within these three months sent the captain's wife three hundred and eighty odd lines of odd, and very odd, indecent poetry, which invention, plagiarism, and compiling, must have cost him more labour than telling a plain story of matter of fact, which he must either do, or stand here condemned; and when a man has truth and nothing else to tell, it will, when told, though wrote as this letter is in the most hasty manner, carry an air of truth that a discerning mind must discover, and as I am confident I have not knowingly set down what I do not believe, or know to be true, so I flatter myself your lordship will discern the truth, as well as the inaccuracy of the author, who need not say he was not bred to letters, but was the son of an honest man who bred him to honour God, and abhor falshood, and

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to

to reverence all good men, and
fore,

Your Lordship's dutiful,

and most obedient,

humble Servant.

P O S T S C R I P T.

HA V I N G above, supposed the introducing unnecessary words to be the effect of piety, affection or insolence; I beg leave to say I am just convinced of my mistake, and therefore am desirous, as I shall in all others, to acknowledge it, because I find he does it frequently, without any regard to the sense, to accommodate the prayer to the tune in which he sings it in; a tune so extraordinary, and so unlike any other, that I defy the gravest man living to avoid risibility on hearing it, till he has accustomed his ears to relish discord.

F I N I S.